RESEARCH and analyses

Analysis, Public and Legal Affairs

N° 3 • August 2007

HIGHLIGHTS

- The reinvestments stemming from the new **Québec Research and Innovation Strategy** (QRIS) clearly had a positive impact on the number of new awards offered and the success rates of training award programs.
- At the Master's and doctoral level, 2007-2008 success rates were the highest in three years (**32% at the Master's level** and **34% at the doctoral** level). Without the QRIS, these figures would have been **24%** and **29%** respectively.
- At the postdoctoral level, in 2007-2008, for the first time in three years, the success rate broke the 30% barrier to reach **35%**. Without these QRIS reinvestments, it would have been 29%.
- The proportion of postdoctoral trainees from outside Canada doubled to **16%** between 2005-2006 and 2007-2008.
- Alongside this, more and more FRSQ-funded postdoctoral fellowship awardees from Québec chose internships in other parts of Canada or abroad.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Positive effect of the QRIS on training award competitions in 2007-2008

Me Cédrick Pautel, M.P.A., *Director – Analysis, Public and Legal Affairs*
Brigitte Poinsier, M.Sc., *Project Adviser- – Analysis, Public and Legal Affairs*

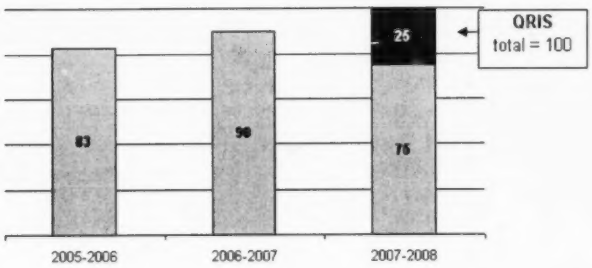
In December 2006, the Government of Québec released the Québec Research and Innovation Strategy (QRIS) which provides for additional funding to the Québec granting agencies in order to increase the number of graduate and postdoctoral awards.

The reinvestments generated by the QRIS enabled the FRSQ to increase the number of Master's, doctoral and postdoctoral awards and, by extension, to enhance competition success rates. The figures on the following pages present the effects of the QRIS on training award programs. They also provide a portrait of postdoctoral fellowship awardees from the standpoint of their nationality and training location.

Fonds de la recherche en santé Québec

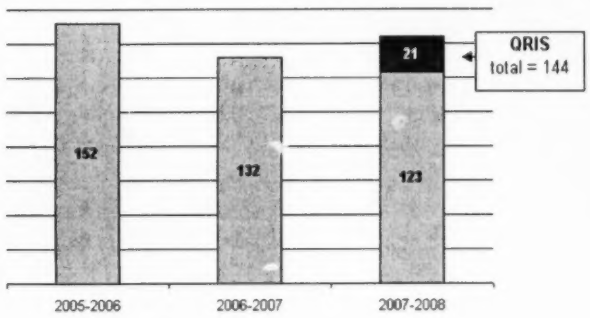
Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec 500 Sherbrooke Street West, Suite 800, Montreal (Qc) H3A 3C6
Telephone: (514) 873-2114 / communications@frsq.gouv.qc.ca / www.frsq.gouv.qc.ca

Figure 1 – Number of new Master's* awards offered



Source: FRSQ, as at 23 May 2007.
** Includes awards for applicants with a professional degree.*

Figure 2 – Number of new doctoral* awards offered



Source: FRSQ, as at 23 May 2007.
** Includes awards for applicants with a professional degree.*

Table 1 - Effect of the QRIS on success rates*

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	QRIS
Master's**	25.3%	30.5%	24.1%	32.2%
Doctoral**	25.8%	29.3%	28.8%	33.7%

Source: FRSQ, as at 23 May 2007.
** New awards offered/new applications received.*
*** Includes awards for applicants with a professional degree.*

Positive effect of the Québec Research and Innovation Strategy (QRIS)

Had it not been for the QRIS, the number of new Master's and doctoral awards offered (75 and 123 respectively) would have decreased in 2007-2008. Reinvestments from the QRIS meant an increase in the number of awards offered.

In 2007-2008, a total of 100 new awards were offered at the Master's level and 144 at the doctoral level.

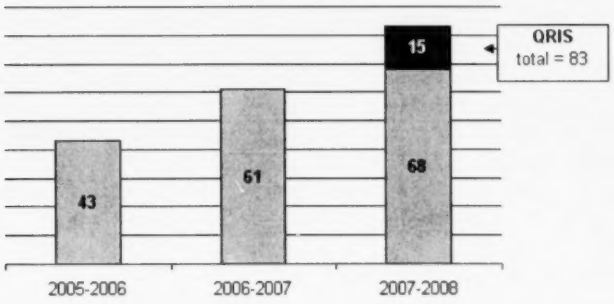
Success rate increases

Alongside the increase in the number of awards offered, Master's and doctoral success rates also enjoyed gains because of the QRIS. At the Master's level, the success rate for 2007-2008 rose from 24% (pre-QRIS) to 32%, and at the doctoral level, from 29% (pre-QRIS) to 34%. In both cases, the success rates were the highest they had been in three years.

A positive impact posted at the postdoctoral level as well

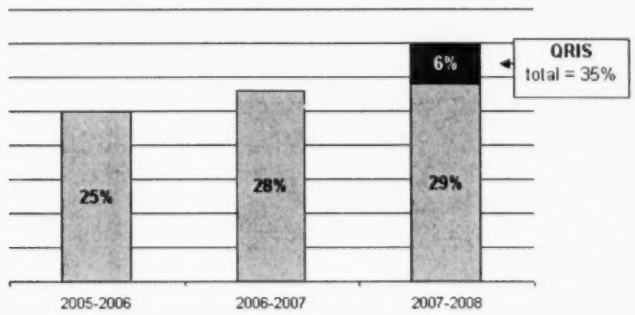
Postdoctoral training has always been a priority for the FRSQ. The number of new postdoctoral awards has risen steadily in recent years, moving from 43 in 2005-2006 to 68 in 2007-2008. Thanks to the reinvestments made possible under the QRIS, 15 awards were added during the last competition, bringing the number of new awards offered to 83, up from 68, a 22% gain.

Figure 3 – Number of new postdoctoral* awards offered



Source: FRSQ, as at 23 May 2007.
** Includes professional postgraduate training awards (fellowships).*

Figure 4 – Postdoctoral award success rates***



Source: FRSQ, as at 23 May 2007.
** New awards offered/Applications received*
*** Includes professional postgraduate training awards (fellowships).*

Table 2 – Nationality of postdoctoral awardees***

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Canadians	93%	81%	84%
Foreign students	7%	19%	16%

Source: FRSQ, as at 23 May 2007
** New awards offered.*
*** Includes professional postgraduate training awards (fellowships) and international exchanges*

Better success rates: Breaking the 30% barrier

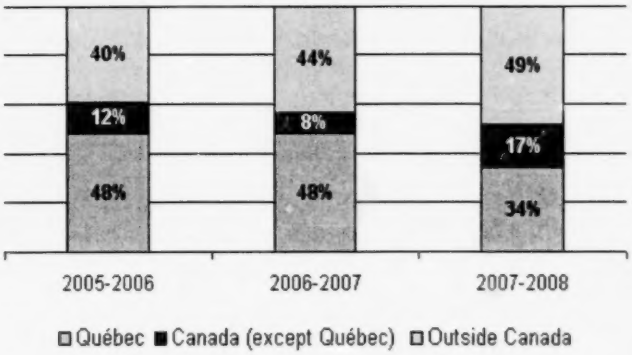
Despite the continuous rise in the number of new postdoctoral awards offered, success rates remained relatively steady (from 25% to 29% in three years).

This is due to a sizable increase in the number of applications received during this period. However, the reinvestments stemming from the QRIS meant that the success rate rose to 35%, breaking the 30% barrier, a first in three years.

Greater openness to postdoctoral trainees from abroad

The FRSQ's postdoctoral award program enables foreign applicants to come to Québec for their internship. Over the period from 2005-2006 to 2007-2008, the proportion of new postdoctoral awardees from abroad increased from 7% to 16%.

Figure 5 – Distribution of postdoctoral awardees* by training location**



Source: FRSQ, as at 23 May 2007.

* *New awards offered (Canadian awardees only).*

** *Includes professional postgraduate training awards (fellowships) and international exchanges*

More and more postdoctoral internships carried out abroad

In recent years, the FRSQ has encouraged postdoctoral awardees from Québec to carry out their internship in another province of Canada or abroad. This approach is in keeping with Québec's will to foster the international growth of Québec expertise and to develop networks beyond our borders.

Increasing numbers of postdoctoral awardees are opting for internship outside Québec. Between 2005-2006 and 2007-2008, the proportion of awardees who decided on an internship elsewhere in Canada went from 12% to 17%. For international internships, the increase was from 40% to 49%. In 2007-2008, a total of 66% of new postdoctoral awardees from Québec chose an internship outside the province.